

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 1st October 1904.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	
Moral effect of Russia's victory over Japan ...	917	The municipal pound at English Bazar, district Malda ...	930
The English Press on the safe retreat of General Kuropatkin from Liaoyang ...	ib.	The Santipur Municipality ...	ib.
The Tibetan settlement ...	ib.	Messrs Ralli Brothers' clerk acquitted ...	ib.
The Tibetan treaty ...	918	The Maniknagar Ghat affair ...	984
China's view of the Tibetan treaty ...	ib.		
Annexation of the Chumbi Valley ...	ib.		
The Tibetan treaty ...	ib.		
The deposition of the Dalai Lama ...	ib.		
The English—a nation of shop-keepers ...	ib.		
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
(a)—Police—		The question of the ownership of <i>chur</i> lands ...	981
Crime in Bagerhat subdivision, Khulna ...	919	High-handed proceedings of a Collector ...	ib.
The Chaukidari Act and the village panchayet ...	ib.		
Grievances of village panchayets and chaukidars ...	920		
Thefts in the Karrya quarter of Calcutta ...	ib.	(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
Shooting in the heart of the town ...	ib.	Railway complaints ...	931
Lawlessness at Kedarpur in Tangail ...	921	The Machpara railway collision ...	ib.
Crime in the Hooghly district ...	ib.	Railway inconveniences at Beliaghata ...	932
		Railway complaints ...	933
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Female carriages on Indian railways ...	ib.
Rumoured abolition of the Chikandi Munsifi ...	921	Railway complaints ...	ib.
Complaints against a Munsif ...	ib.	A steamer complaint ...	ib.
Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal ...	922	The proposed Bankura-Calcutta grand chord line ...	ib.
Complaints against a Deputy Magistrate ...	ib.	Question of railway risk notes ...	934
A complaint against a Sub-Registrar ...	ib.	Reconstruction of a road and bridge in the Hooghly district ...	ib.
The new scheme for notifying small defaulters in road and public works cesses in Dacca ...	ib.		
The new scheme for notifying small defaulters in road and public works cesses in Dacca ...	ib.		
The District Magistrate of Rangpur ...	ib.		
The Calcutta Small Cause Court ...	923		
Fourteen years' transportation for killing an unchaste daughter ...	924		
A complaint against the Sub-Registrar of Dewan-ganj, district Mymensingh ...	ib.		
(c)—Jails—			
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
The case of the guilty Comilla students ...	924		
The proposed Ranchi College ...	925		
The proposed college at Ranchi ...	ib.		
The proposed Ranchi College ...	ib.		
The proposed Ranchi College ...	926		
The proposed Ranchi College ...	ib.		
The proposed establishment of a high-class college at Ranchi ...	ib.		
The proposed college at Ranchi ...	927		
The proposed college at Ranchi ...	ib.		
The proposed Ranchi College ...	928		
The Government technical school in Bengal ...	ib.		
The selection of vernacular text-books ...	929		
The vernacular scholarships rules ...	ib.		
Lord George Hamilton and high education ...	930		
		III.—LEGISLATION.	
		The copy-right law ...	937
		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
		Nil.	
		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
		Prospect of the crops ...	937

Page.

Page.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The national degeneration of the English and the present Cabinet	...	937
Proposal for a Public Hall at Ranchi	...	ib.
"Indians! Be up."	...	ib.
A soldier punished	...	938
Captain Bowering's murder	...	ib.
Alleged sedition in a Marathi newspaper of Bombay	...	ib.
The anniversary of Sivaji in Calcutta	...	ib.
The Sivaji Festival in Calcutta	...	ib.
The Congress demand	...	ib.
Lord Curzon and the Bombay Municipality	...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

The rainfall in Orissa	...	938
An excise case at Puri	...	ib.
The proposed college at Ranchi	...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS—concl'd.

A memorial to the late Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta	...	940
A light punishment	...	ib.
Bengalis domiciled in Orissa and the Provincial Civil Service	...	ib.
The imposition of a <i>pindika</i> fee at Puri	...	ib.
The Balasore Municipality	...	ib.
Heavy showers in the Balasore district	...	941
Crop prospects in Balasore	...	ib.
The health of Balasore town	...	ib.
The Sub-Postmastership of Talcher	...	ib.
The Athgurb Treasury theft case	...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Circulation of counterfeit coins	...	941
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Dharma-o-Karma" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	September 1904.	
2	"Prachar" ...	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	.....	.....	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Sign Board" ...	Calcutta ...	500	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Anusandhan" ...	Calcutta ...	1,200	10th September 1904.	
2	"Bangabhum" ...	Ditto ...	1,400	21st ditto.	
3	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	9,000	24th ditto.	
4	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	13,000	24th ditto.	
5	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	16,000	23rd ditto.	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	23rd ditto.	
7	"Mistabhasi" ...	Ditto ...	800	24th ditto.	
8	"Nava Yug" ...	Ditto ...	500	27th ditto.	
9	"Pratijna" ...	Ditto ...	700	28th ditto.	
10	"Rangalaya" ...	Ditto ...	100	18th ditto.	
11	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	800	23rd ditto.	
12	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,200	22nd ditto.	
13	"Soltan" ...	Ditto ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
14	"Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika."	Ditto ...	1,000	21st ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	23rd and 25th September 1904.	
2	"Daily Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th September 1904.	
3	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Ditto ...	200	23rd, 26th, 27th, and 28th September 1904.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	400	23rd, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 28th September 1904.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mittra" ...	Calcutta ...	3,200	24th September 1904.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	26th ditto.	
3	"Hitavarta" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	25th ditto.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Roznama-i-M u k a d d a s-Hablul Mateen."	Calcutta ...	1,000	19th September 1904.	
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	1,156	23rd September 1904.	
2	"Birbhum Varta" ...	Birbhum ...	.....	26th ditto.	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	400	20th ditto.	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	650	25th ditto.	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	1,750	23rd ditto.	
6	"Howrah Hitaishi" ...	Howrah ...	200	24th ditto.	
7	"Medini Bandhav" ...	Midnapore ...	400	21st ditto.	
8	"Nihar" ...	Contai ...	300	.....	
9	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	350	28th September 1904.	
10	"Ratnakar" ...	Asansol ...	750	24th ditto.	
11	"Uluberia Darpan" ...	Uluberia ...	.....	.....	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Sevika" ...	Diamond Harbour ...	.....	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hitasadhak" ...	Alipore ...	300	.....	
2	"Jasohar" ...	Jessore ...	1,600	.....	
3	"Khulna" ...	Khulna ...	500	22nd September 1904.	
4	"Khulna Hitaishi" ...	Khulna ...	200	24th ditto.	
5	"Krishnanagar" ...	Krishnagar ...	.....	23rd ditto.	
6	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Khagra ...	375	21st ditto.	
7	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Do. ...	.....	16th ditto.	
8	"Pratihar" ...	Berhampore ...	607	23rd ditto.	
URIYA.		ORISSA DIVISION.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Garjatbasini" ...	Talcher ...	.....	17th September 1904.	
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	300	15th ditto.	
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	500	7th ditto.	
4	"Utkaldipika" ...	Cuttack ...	500	17th ditto.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Places of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	HINDI. <i>Monthly.</i>	PATNA DIVISION.			
1	"Lakshmi Upadesh Lahri" ...	Aurangabad, Gaya ...	...	.....	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore ...	.....	600	
2	"Jain Gajat" ...	Arrah ...	.....	500	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Siksha" ...	Bankipur ...	.....	.....	
	URDU. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore ...	545	.....	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	BEHAGALPUR DIVISION			
1	"Maldaha Samachar" ...	Malda ...	...	21st September 1904.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.			
1	"Manbhum" ...	Purulia ...	400	27th September 1904.	
	HINDI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Ghar Bandhu" ...	Ranchi ...	.....	15th September 1904.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Arya Varta" ...	Ranchi ...	510	24th September 1904.	
	BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia ...	225	21st September 1904.	
2	"Pabna Hitaishi" ...	Pabna ...	.....	.....	
3	"Rangpur Dik Prakash" ...	Rangpur ...	7,480	22nd September 1904.	
4	"Rangpur Vartavaha" ...	Ditto ...	800	23rd ditto.	
5	"Swadesh Hitaishi" ..	Rangpur ...	.....	.....	
	BENGALI. <i>Monthly.</i>	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Gaurab" ...	Dacca ...	.....	.....	
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	500	.....	
2	"Santi" ...	Madaripur ...	500	15th September 1904.	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	400	21st September 1904.	
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	1,000	20th ditto.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	500	25th ditto.	
4	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Barisal ...	500	21st ditto.	
5	"Purba Banga" ...	Dacca ...	.....	.....	
6	"Swadeshi" ...	Barisal ...	.....	.....	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	600	26th September 1904.	
	BENGALI. <i>Tri-monthly.</i>	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
1	"Suhrid" ...	Noakhali ...	500	.....	
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hitavarta" ...	Muradnagar ...	300	15th September 1904.	
2	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	700 to 800	22nd ditto.	
3	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto ...	300 to 500	16th ditto.	
4	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	720	20th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI. <i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Pratinidhi" ...	Comilla ...	400	14th September 1904.	
	BENGALI. <i>Fortnightly.</i>	ASSAM.			
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	500	21st September 1904.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar ...	.....	.....	

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE following is the substance of a letter from a correspondent of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas* *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta],

Moral effect of Russia's victory over Japan.

published in its issue of the 19th September:—

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN,
Sept. 19th, 1904.

In inviting attention to the letter of Sir Alfred Lyall, published in some English papers, on the subject of the victories of Japan, an Asiatic Power, over Russia, a mighty European Power, and their moral effect on the Asiatic people, the correspondent points out the doings of nations who call themselves enlightened and civilized well-wishers and protectors of mankind, etc., and condemn others as ignorant savages; and asks all good men to think of the fate that awaits these nations on the judgment day, when their hypocrisy will be proclaimed before the world to their utter humiliation.

One of these nations being jealous of the prosperity of others, came across the Atlantic and possessed itself of India and China. It waged war against Persia, and by means of fraud, deprived the latter of Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Muscat. It brought down the Khedive from the palace of the Pharaohs and made him subservient to itself. It harried the bones of the Mahdi of the Soudan in the land of his faith. Seeing that the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were as iron walls round the gold mines, it determined to destroy them, and put the chain of humiliation round the neck of a handful of high-minded, patriotic people.

Another nation, like an evil spirit, has crossed over the boundaries of Europe and possessed itself of the Aral and the Caucasian provinces, Siberia and Turkistan, and parts of Tartary and China. It has encroached upon Eastern, North-Eastern and Western Persia, and is now busily engaged in preparing for the attainment of its long-cherished object, viz., to crush the strength of its rival—England—and then to conquer the whole world.

Such being the state of things, the correspondent asks if England can remain quiet if Japan is defeated by Russia, which will surely then cast a wistful glance on India, etc., etc., and then points out to his countrymen their abject condition, due to their being addicted to wine and debauchery, and exhorts them to be up and doing, and by their united efforts to save their mother-country from slavery.

2. In commenting on the trend of public feeling towards Japan after the battle of Liaoyang, as expressed in the English

The English Press on the safe retreat of General Kuropatkin from Liaoyang.

Press, the same paper discovers some shrewdness and foresight in the English, who, by making so much of the safe retreat of General Kuropatkin,

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN.

which had the immediate effect of raising the price of Russian stock and lowering that of its rival, have laid the Russians under a deep obligation and secured to themselves a "lamp against a dark night." They praised the Japanese in the beginning, so that they might be friendly to them, and now they find fault with their partial success with a view to lower them in the eyes of the Asiatics who had built high hopes on them. Thus the English have killed many birds at one shot.

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September writes as follows:—

The Tibetan settlement.

If what the *Times*' correspondent says is true, the suzerainty of Tibet has passed to the English.

Tibet retains her independence only in name. As for the Chumbi Valley, when the English have once occupied it, it may well be doubted whether it will be returned to the Tibetans; because the English have had an eye on this valley from a long time.

Lord Curzon had, for reasons best known to himself, decided that China's suzerainty over Tibet was only nominal. The treaty of Lhasa, however, shows that that is not really the case. Lord Curzon's fears about Russian influence in Tibet have also been proved to be groundless. Besides these, the accusation which was made against the Tibetans that they had killed innocent British subjects has been proved to be baseless. In short, most of

HITAVADI,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

the grounds on which Lord Curzon had supported the Tibet expedition have been proved to be false. And yet Tibet has been deprived of her independence, she has been obliged to pay a large war indemnity, and thousands of her innocent sons have been killed. And for this noble and heroic act, kind Edward VII has himself thanked Colonel Younghusband, and Lord Curzon has received the eulogy of the authorities in England. How mighty are self-interest and desire for conquest! Alas for Western civilisation!

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

4. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September quotes the following from *Novoe Vremya*:—

The Tibetan treaty.

"The Buddhists of Mongolia are much offended at the occupation of Tibet by the English. They would gather up a force by the next February and fight with the English." The Dalai Lama is also said to be with them.

BHARAT MITRA.

5. The same paper has the following:—

China's view of the Tibetan treaty.

It is said that the Dalai Lama has been deprived of his authority in Tibet by the order of China, but a Shanghai correspondent informs the *Morning Post* of London that China objects to the Tibetan treaty, as it is altogether doing away with the sovereignty of China over Tibet.

BHARAT MITRA.

6. Referring to the information given by the *Pioneer* that no Political

Annexation of the Chumbi Valley.

Resident will be placed in Tibet, but some provision would be made to secure the interests of Indian commerce, the same paper remarks that if not a Resident, some other officer must be posted there, and adds that the encouragement offered to the military officers of India to learn the Tibetan language shows that some force will also be stationed in Tibet. That the Chumbi Valley is to be annexed to India, as a result of the provision made in the treaty for the payment of the indemnity of 75 lakhs of rupees, admits of no doubt, since the poor Tibetans can never be expected to pay the above amount. It was stated that the English would annex no part of Tibet, but it is to be noticed that by their skill they have done so.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

7. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 25th September notices the satisfac-

The Tibetan treaty.

tion of the English and the Anglo-Indian Press on the conclusion of a treaty with Tibet, but says it cannot join them in their rejoicings and express satisfaction at this spoliation of other men's territory by sheer injustice.

The paper anticipates trouble in the near future, and says that the English mission has not obtained trade privileges, but has offended Fate itself.

HITAVARTA.

8. The same paper, referring to the order of the Chinese Government

The deposition of the Dalai Lama.

investing the Tashi Lama with the government of Tibet, asks if the Tibet Expedition [was sent to obtain facilities for trade or to ruin the Dalai Lama, and if the Chinese Emperor acted wisely in this matter. Shame to the Buddhists of Tibet, who did not object to their head being cut off.

HITAVARTA.

9. Commenting on the remarks of the English Press on the Tibet Expedition, the same paper has the following:—

The English—a nation of shop-keepers.

The English are a nation of shop-keepers. They first enter a country under a pretence of trade. Having made themselves acquainted with the customs and laws of the people and also the defects in the administration of the new country, in the course of a few years they begin to extend their hands further. Under the pretence of trade they first build factories and forts, and then appear in their terrible form and throttle those who gave them a shelter. They enter like a needle, but expand into a plough-share when coming out. The root of obtaining this vast empire of India is only trade. That trade has not yet disappeared, but the might of the kingdom having been added to the scale, the trading power has increased. There was some fear of the Emperor or the Nababs in the beginning, but it is all gone now; so, as remarked by the *Daily News* and Mr. Cotton, there is no wonder if the English play the same trading game in Tibet after a number of years.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

10. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 22nd September reports that all forms of lawlessness are increasing at Karapara village, in the Bagerhat subdivision of Khulna. Thefts, snatching away of ornaments from the person, and even forcible abduction of women with intent to outrage them are becoming common. And yet this village is situated very near to the subdivisional head-quarters.

KHULNA,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

11. The same paper publishes the following in English :—

The Chaukidari Act and the village panchayet.

The village panchayet is an institution of old, older even than the Saxon Witenagemot, and is the very elementary conception of Local Self-Government in this country. Nothing is more pleasant to us than that the Government of the day has recognised this ancient institution and has given legislative effect to its constitution in the body of the Village Chaukidari Act. This Act was passed so far back as 1870, and although a few amendments have been made, the main Act, No. VI, still exists. The provisions of the Act, as regards the constitution of the panchayet, its subordination to the police and the Magistracy, the employment of chaukidars, the mode of assessment, and the disbursement of funds, require revision and reconsideration by the Provincial Legislature in view of the growing enlightenment of the public. The District Magistrate has power to appoint members and constitute panchayet. Although clause (2) of section 3 provides for power of selection by the adult male rate-paying residents of any village, this cannot be done without the previous sanction of the Local Government. In this district we invariably find the power of nomination rests with the public and that of appointment with the Magistrate. In areas inhabited by the cultivating class of people the police are bound to exercise greater supervision of the works of the panchayet, but in villages inhabited by the educated class of people the power of selection by the people may safely be conferred upon them. At least for the sake of experiment such a method may be tried. We see that the Magistrate of the district, with his plethora of works demanding his constant attention, can hardly find time to turn his eyes to this matter, which, though insignificant to him, is of the highest moment to the people, who have learnt to value Local Self-Government.

KHULNA.

If the people are asked to select their own men in areas inhabited by *bhadralokes*, the constitution of the panchayet may not leave room for abuses which from time to time come to our notice. What we need most is sympathetic administration, and a fair consideration of the people to select their own men. The matter becomes all the more grave and serious in view of the fact that many administrative informations are supplied by the chaukidars which by gradual steps go higher up to the highest functionary of the Indian administration, who makes use of them in Government Blue Books and also in meeting opponents in favour of popular demands of reform. What the village chaukidar has said cannot be gainsaid by the recognised leaders of popular opinion, who have to succumb to the cold and sardonic rebuff of officials inspired by the authoritative pronouncements of chaukidars. The informations asked from chaukidar should be referred to the panchayet, which should furnish true and unimpeachable reports. In order to bring about such a consummation of reliability, matters must undergo radical improvement, and the panchayet should be reconstituted upon popular basis, where possible, so as to be under the censorship of the people.

The assessment and administration of funds in the hands of panchayets have given rise to popular discontents which require to be attended to by the authorities. Panchayets should be called upon to furnish accounts periodically. We find in the Act itself that assessments are made for defraying the cost of chaukidar's uniform every year. We do not know what the actual cost is and the official duration of one set of uniform, but we do know one set lasts for three years. The need for uniform annual assessment on account of chaukidar's dress is an oppression upon the tax-payers. If the accounts are examined from time to time, and disbursements of funds checked, abuses might

be brought to light, and a fixed standard of expenditure secured, which would obviate the necessity of variation in the rates of taxes. A panchayet set free without any effective control may flout conscientious scruples and be open to corruptions that have nowadays become so inseparable from a policeman. It is no wonder that venality has made its way into the village panchayet on account of the unrestrained indulgence enjoyed by them. It is also desirable that members of panchayet should be changed on the expiration of their term of office. When abuses come into existence, the people are the first to raise a hue and cry before they come to the notice of Government. The people should therefore be given the power of inquisition by a constitution which the law in its unbounded wisdom has provided for, and which is bound to be salutary in its effect.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA.
Sept. 25th, 1904.

12. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 25th September points out that the officers in charge of police thanas or outposts often refuse to receive information about thefts, deaths by accidents, murders, etc., which village panchayets are bound by law to supply to them. As the panchayet thus obtains no receipt for information supplied, he is often unjustly prosecuted for neglect of duty. He is too much afraid of the police to speak out the truth against them. This grievance of the panchayets might be remedied (1) by the issue of special orders compelling officers in charge of thanas or outposts to supply a receipt for all papers sent up by the panchayet; or (2) by arranging for a double set of papers, so that the same information might be sent at once both to the thana or outpost, and to the Subdivisional or District Magistrate.

It is further pointed out that village chaukidars are often unjustly fined on the plea of non-attendance at the weekly muster at the thana or outpost. It is the duty of the chaukidar on these occasions, among other things, to register the births and deaths occurring in his jurisdiction. It often happens that there are no births or deaths to report during a particular week, and in such an event he carries with him no record to show that he attended the muster. Now, the roll-call at these musters is done by a poorly-paid writer-constable. And if any chaukidar is unfortunate enough to incur the ill-will of this constable, he may easily find himself marked absent, and fined for it. To prevent such an abuse of authority, the old custom of supplying an attendance-book to the chaukidars should be restored. The entries about births and deaths might also be made in this same book.

SOLTAN,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

13. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September points out that thefts have been occurring frequently during the last two weeks in the Karrya quarter of Calcutta, near Gorasthan Lane, Jhantala Road, etc. One or two thefts are reported every day. Moreover, passers-by in the streets are molested at night-time by these thieves. The houses of Makdum Khalifa, Uzir Golsaj and other rich men of the locality have already been visited by them. The police constables patrol only the main streets, and never enter the lanes. Last Sunday night, the house of a resident at Gorasthan Lane was attacked by thieves. The owner was awake, and his hue and cry was sufficient to attract all the neighbours to the spot; but no policeman was forthcoming. The Inspectors of the local thanas (Beniapukur and Ballyganj) require a warning from the Commissioner of Police to rouse them to a sense of their duties.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

14. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September is informed by a gentleman that a few days ago, a European was seen shooting pigeons with his air-gun on the premises of the Mint just opposite the Jorabagan thana, and that he killed about eight or ten of them. People were much shocked at the sight of so much cruelty, and tried to scare away the pigeons by the clap of their hands. On enquiry, it was found that the European gentleman was the Inspector of the Jorabagan thana. If true, it is really disgraceful for the Inspector to do such acts of butchery near the Hindu temples, and thereby to wound the feelings of the hundreds of people going to Jagannath Ghat by that way for taking a dip into the sacred river.

15. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 25th September complains of the increasing lawlessness of the *Kalus* of Kedarpur, in the Tangail subdivision of Mymensingh. Helpless women are subjected to all sorts of insult and outrage in broad daylight. Two respectable gentlemen (Babus Kali Narain and Chandra Narain Ray) were recently roughly handled by these ruffians. They have filed a complaint in the local Criminal Court. The offenders are the tenants of the Balliati zamindars, and it is to be hoped that they will lend their aid to bring the offenders to justice.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

16. It is not too much to say, writes the *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 25th September, that during the last two years there has been something like anarchy in the Hooghly district. No mention of this state of things is to be found in the District Police Administration Report submitted to Government. Thefts, dacoities, robbery, murders, plundering, etc., have been frequent. A consideration of the number of cases disposed of last year in the Police Courts and in the Sessions Court is enough to make one horror-struck, and at the same time shows the utter worthlessness of the police and the real internal condition of the district. The learned and able Sessions Judge of Hooghly, Mr. Gopendra Krishna Dev, had to undergo the greatest physical and mental strain in the hearing of the numerous cases brought before him. But great as were the number of cases, in how many of these were the police able to trace the offenders? Does not this show the inefficiency or the criminal neglect of the police officers? It is to be hoped that Mr. Carey, the present District Magistrate, will be able to extirpate crime and restore order in the district.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

Daring thefts are reported from Kapasdanga and adjoining places. The villagers are in great consternation. Special police arrangements should be made early to keep the peace, as during the ensuing Pujahs both the intensity and frequency of crime are likely to increase.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

17. A correspondent of the *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 15th September deprecates the proposal to remove the Chikandi Munsifi to Madaripur, which is said to have been made by the local District Judge. The proposal, if sanctioned, will put the inhabitants of Kartikpur, Bhederganj, Gosain Hat, Palang and other villages to great trouble and expense. The writer suggests the establishment of a new Munsifi, either at Palang or Bhojeswar.

SANTI,
Sept. 15th, 1904.

18. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th September makes the following allegations against Babu Satkari Haldar, Munsif of Kishorganj, in district Mymensingh:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 20th, 1904.

- (1) He does not allow pleaders to state the law relating to a particular case, but requires them to confine themselves only to a statement of the facts, evidently with a view to the "speedy disposal" of cases.
- (2) In disposing of small cause suits, he orders both the parties to be completely ready with their cases on the very first day of the hearing; applications for enquiry are rejected; and yet when the parties come ready with their cases according to his instructions, he postpones the hearing from day to day.
- (3) In rent suits, written statements of objections by the defendants are not admitted. Hearings are put off from day to day, yet every day both parties are told to be in attendance with their cases ready.
- (4) Suits involving large interests are often disposed of on the same day that the issues are framed.
- (5) Sometimes *ex-parte* decrees are granted, although not even a summons has been served on the defendant.
- (6) Muharrirs are not allowed to file papers at his *ejlas*. They are not allowed to approach even his *peshkar*.

- (7) Orders on applications are issued from his private chamber, so that at the time of passing the orders, vakils cannot be present.
- (8) What troubles an auction-purchaser intending to deposit the purchase-money is subjected to in the matter of the prescribed *chalan* are well illustrated by the case of Braja Mohan De Sarkar.
- (9) Petitions are not allowed to be filed unless they bear the full amount of court-fee stamps at the time of presentation.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Sept. 21st, 1904.

19. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 21st September writes :—

Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal. Mr. Jarbo, the notorious Deputy Magistrate of Midnapur, is now at Barisal, and he has not changed his disposition with the change of station.

He is partially deaf and is always boasting of his superior knowledge. Recently he got into trouble with his Magistrate in an amusing fashion, and the Divisional Commissioner had to intervene to settle the difference. A few days ago Mr. Jarbo, in the absence of another Deputy Magistrate, was entrusted with the duty of receiving applications for copies, etc. Mr. Jarbo, however, was in such high spirits that day that he refused all the applications, and browbeat such parties as were bold enough to argue against his decisions. The less the responsibility that is entrusted to whimsical officers like him the better.

KHULNA,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

20. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 22nd September publishes certain

complaints against Babu Ram Kamal Gupta, a Deputy Collector at the sadar station of Khulna. Complaints against a Deputy Magistrate.

It is alleged that in disposing of land registration cases, he is not in the habit of fixing any particular date for the hearing of a suit, so that suitors are compelled to be present from day to day with their legal advisers. Again, as regards criminal cases, anybody who happens to be accused before him is sure to be convicted.

JYOTI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

21. A correspondent of the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 22nd September

complains against Mian Abdus Sabur, Sub-Registrar of Baskhali, district Chittagong. A complaint against a Sub-Registrar.

It is alleged that he meddles in the factions between certain local influential families of Kalipur, and that he does not attend office at the regular hours, but makes people who have come from distant places to transact business with him wait till evening.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

22. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September writes :—

Babu Sukumar Haldar, Deputy Collector of Dacca, writes to us to say that when landholders of that district who pay less than five rupees as road cess and public work cess are in default with respect to the payment of their rates, information of the fact will be sent to the local post office. Information as to persons newly assessed will also be sent to the post office. There is no doubt that this scheme will prove a great boon to the petty landholders, and it is desirable that it should be extended to other districts as well.

The new scheme for notifying small defaulters in road and public works cesses in Dacca.

Information as to persons newly assessed will also be sent to the post office. There is no doubt that this scheme will prove a great boon to the petty landholders, and it is desirable that it should be extended to other districts as well.

DACCA PRAKAS,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

23. Referring to the new scheme for notifying small defaulters in the

payment of road and public works cesses in Dacca, substituting printed notices in the post offices for the issue of certificates, the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 25th September remarks :—

It has been a change for the better. The author of it, Mr. Rankin, has thereby earned the gratitude and respect of the people of Dacca. It is an excellent indication how our warm-hearted Magistrate is always mindful of the public convenience. May he be blessed with long life and prosperity. It is to be hoped that other districts in Bengal will soon follow Mr. Rankin's lead in this matter.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

24. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 23rd September says that

the present District Magistrate of Rangpur is very unwilling to issue summonses to witnesses in criminal cases, and cites the following case as an illustration.

One Matiram Das, an inhabitant of Baraibari in the Kaliganj thana, instituted a criminal case against Jenatulla and others. Babu Sarat Chandra Bose, Deputy Magistrate, held a judicial enquiry and ordered summon to be issued

under section 426, Indian Penal Code. As the witnesses of the complainant did not appear in Court on the 1st August last, he prayed for the issue of warrants against them, which the Deputy Magistrate granted and fixed the 10th idem for the hearing of the case. In the meantime Sarat Babu was transferred to Bogra, and then the District Magistrate recorded the following order in the case:—

Babu S. C. Bose, Deputy Magistrate, has been transferred. The case will remain in my file at present. Notice can now issue to complainant that his witnesses are not to attend, as they will not be heard on the 10th, but that he must prove on 10th, or at latest 13th, the clear title to the land by documentary and expert evidence.

Inform thana officer also by special messenger that the warrants against the witnesses are not to be executed or, if executed, witnesses informed not to appear.

R. C. HAMILTON,
Magistrate.

The 5th August 1904.

It is difficult to understand what is meant by the term expert evidence in the above. How arbitrarily the case was decided will appear from the following:—

Expert was required. The person who appeared to-day is useless. Some one who has visited the spot, identified the surrounding lands, and who will be prepared to state on oath as to the identity of the land to which the damage was done, with the land to which documents show complainant's title. However, evidently complainant cannot adduce such evidence. The accused Zenat is acquitted. Section 225, Criminal Procedure Code.

R. C. HAMILTON,
Magistrate.

The 20th August 1904.

If justice is administered in this manner, the helpless people will have to suffer the worst outrages without any hope of redress.

25. Referring to the proposal to increase the jurisdiction and power of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September observes as follows:—

SAMAY,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

In emoluments the posts of the 1st and 2nd Judges of the Calcutta Small Cause Court are equal to the posts of District and Sessions Judges. But while the latter are held by able and experienced civilians, the former are filled up by recruitment from the ranks of raw and briefless young barristers of the Calcutta High Court. And in this recruitment the choice of the Government is generally influenced by the influential Bar. The three lowest Judgeships of the Small Cause Court are, it is widely believed in the country, meant for such officers as have been able to purchase the favour of the Government with their independence. And judging from the character of the individuals who generally hold these posts, this belief does not seem to be unfounded. Of the three present incumbents, one considers himself possessed of all knowledge, and incapable of committing any mistake, and another, who is a countryman of ours, thinks that dispensation of justice is a very easy work. The latter never allows more than five minutes' time for the cross-examination of a witness. Besides this, his supernatural powers enable him to do more than one work at one and the same time. While engaged in hearing cases he writes letters and does sundry other work, and at 2 P.M. retires to his private chamber to enjoy the balm of repose. In his Court complainants are always found laughing and defendants weeping. Nothing need be said regarding the last Judge of the Court, because he has been serving in his present capacity for the last 20 years and has failed to secure a promotion. As for the Registrar of the Court—that hearty, plump, beautiful, beardless young man who is very sparing in his words,—he seems to be always deeply immersed in the study of human nature. He is very modest and well-behaved, and his extreme gentleness often conceals the brightness and lustre of his intelligence. He sometimes becomes so deeply engaged in the hearing of cases as to forget himself in them. Then comes the Clerk of the Court, who draws a salary of Rs. 500 and is the head of the office establishment of the Court. Although he is a *sahib* he finds it difficult

to read English handwriting, and considers the work of signing his name the most difficult of all his duties. It is said that he was at first a common soldier. Afterwards he served for some years in the Police Department, and thence came to the Small Cause Court as a bailiff. Then by gradual promotion he received the high post which he now holds. Most of his time is spent in guiding and governing menial servants. His fine intelligence often leads him to do queer things. Recently he called the police in an office matter in which its presence was not at all required. The Chief Judge, when he heard this, dismissed the police.

The Calcutta Small Cause Court is not guided by the laws which guide all other Courts in the country. As a matter of fact, it is a mystery as to what law obtains in it. The Judges of the Court are not bound to take down the depositions of witnesses. They are not required to write their judgments. Their decisions are summary and there is no appeal against them. In short, in cases with which they deal they form the lowest as well as the highest Courts of justice without anything to guide their actions or exercise a salutary check on them. More independent than the highest Courts of justice in the mufassal, they see in themselves the monarchs of all they survey.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

26. With reference to the order of the Sessions Judge of Agra, who sentenced an inhabitant of that place to 14 years' transportation for murdering his unchaste daughter and her paramour, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September comments that, although so many years have elapsed since the establishment of British rule in India, the officials of this country have not yet been able to realize how unbearable it is for a Hindu to see his daughter going astray.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

27. A correspondent (Mahammad Mafazzar Hosain of Dewanganj, Mymensingh) writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th September states that a complaint was some time ago made against Maulvi Fuzlar Rahim, the Sub-Registrar of Dewanganj, district Mymensingh, to the District Magistrate, alleging that the Sub-Registrar was in the habit of refusing to register documents presented to him for that purpose, using various pretexts as his justification. The District Magistrate deputed the Special Sub-Registrar to inquire into the complaint, but the petitioners in a second application represented that an inquiry by the Special Sub-Registrar would not be sufficient and prayed for an inquiry by the District Magistrate in person. In reply to this second application, the District Magistrate informed them that the inquiry would be made either by himself or by the Subdivisional Officer of Jamalpur. As a matter of fact, however, the inquiry was entrusted to the Special Sub-Registrar, who issued a notice to the petitioners calling on them to appear before him at the Dewanganj registry office with their proofs on the 9th September. Some two hundred to two hundred and fifty responded to the call on the appointed day at the appointed place and waited from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. But unfortunately neither the Special Sub-Registrar nor anybody else was present to make the inquiry. A third petition has again been sent up to the District Magistrate. It is to be hoped that he will summon each individual complainant and hear what he has to say.

(d)—Education.

PRATINIDHI,
Sept. 14th, 1904.

28. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 14th September observes that a terrible fate awaits some of the students of Comilla. It is understood that at the recent Conference presided over by the divisional Commissioner, it was decided to punish thirty lads with rustication, in some cases permanent, in others temporary. This means both disgrace and loss to many families. The guardians of the boys whom it is proposed to punish have not been able, in spite of all their efforts, to know the nature of the evidence on which their wards have been convicted. It may be that in some cases the boys have been the victims of bad associates. If correction be, as it ought to be, the object, the guardians should have been consulted as to the punishments to be awarded. The causes which have brought about school-boy immorality in Comilla

should be removed, and efforts made to improve their morals. One teacher, it is said, protested against the severity of the proposed punishment, but his was a cry in the wilderness. The Director of Public Instruction should make an inquiry either in person or by some deputy among the guardians of the lads, before according his sanction to the recommendations of this Conference.

29. Referring to the proposal to establish a model college at Ranchi, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 20th September remarks:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 20th, 1904.

The proposed Ranchi College.

May His Honour's well-meant efforts be crowned with success.

Ranchi may be a healthy place, but its inaccessibility, even when the railway to it is constructed, would operate as a bar to many students going there, who would thus be attracted by the nearer proximity of the Presidency and other existing colleges to their homes. In our opinion, therefore, instead of founding a new college, money should be spent in improving the existing Government colleges and making them model institutions of their kind.

In making this proposal His Honour has been actuated only by a desire for our welfare, and he therefore deserves our thanks. We should not, under the circumstances, throw cold water on his scheme. But what are the facts of the situation? There are plenty of colleges already existing for the purpose of imparting high education. What is needed is not an addition to their number, but an improvement in their quality. Again, what sort of education is it that we now urgently need to rescue the country from its present poverty? Arrangements are already in progress to start a high-class Agricultural College at Pusa. What is needed to supplement the work of that institution is a well-equipped Technical College. If His Honour can found such an institution he will be doing a real service to the country and making a permanent name for himself.

30. Referring to the proposal of establishing a college at Ranchi, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st September writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Sept. 21st, 1904.

The proposed college at Ranchi.

In proposing to establish a college at Ranchi His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was moved by the following considerations:—

- (1) Many respectable men in the country applied to His Honour for the founding of a first-class college at some healthy place.
- (2) They are unwilling to send their sons to towns which are full of temptations.
- (3) Ranchi being a healthy place free from temptations, the establishment of a college there, with a hostel for the accommodation of students, will meet this want.

The noblemen from various parts of the country who came to Calcutta to consider the question raised no objection to the proposal for reasons best known to themselves. His Honour therefore naturally concluded that all of them approved the proposal. It is impossible to understand what the object of the Committee, which was appointed on the motion of Nawab Salimulla, may be.

As far as we can judge of the matter, it seems that there is no likelihood of a large number of students joining the proposed college at Ranchi, and that the tuition fees will be prohibitive. Most persons will therefore find it impossible to send their sons to Ranchi. Government should publish a report of the proceedings of the Belvedere meeting, without which the public will be unable to understand the real motives underlying the proposal.

31. Referring to the recent Conference held at Belvedere on the proposed Ranchi College, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September questions altogether the need of a new college at Ranchi. The Presidency, Dacca, and other existing Government colleges should first be taken in hand and converted into model institutions before an altogether new college at Ranchi is thought of. An expenditure of seven or eight lakhs will be enough to make the Presidency College a model college, but instead of that Sir Andrew Fraser has set his heart on having a new institution at Ranchi. In Bengal there are no new colleges required; the existing ones should first be improved and brought up to a high

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

The proposed Ranchi College.

standard of efficiency. And Bengal also badly needs a school to impart training in the practical arts. These are prime necessities, but they are being disregarded by Sir Andrew Fraser in favour of something that is far less necessary. To please the powers that be, title-hunters will of course open their purse-strings and thereby oblige Sir Andrew Fraser. This cannot be prevented, but at any rate the public funds should not be similarly misspent; for it would not be the work of a righteous administrator to spend money where it is not required.

JYOTI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

32. Referring to the Belvedere Conference on the proposed Ranchi College, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 22nd September observes:—

When the Lieutenant-Governor has sent round the hat, there will be no difficulty in raising the necessary money. But certain points in connection with the scheme were not made quite clear; *e.g.*, what the cost per head will be to educate a student in this institution, and whether the cost will have to be borne by the student or by Government. His Honour's words make it clear that the sons of the richer portion of the community will be educated to become gentlemen at a very high expense. But can nobody but a rich man be a gentleman? Are the innumerable men who have received their education in the existing colleges not then entitled to be called gentlemen? We do not understand His Honour's idea of a gentleman. We only fear that this project of making gentlemen is only a new device to suck money out of people's pockets. The influential classes in this country, in their desire to curry favour with the authorities, have forgotten their duties, wasted their money, and turned the country into a desert, as it were. It is probable that henceforth, to get their sons made gentleman according to the ideas of the officials, they will begin to sell even their hearths and homes.

SOLTAN,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

33. Referring to the recent Belvedere Conference on the proposal to establish a college at Ranchi, the *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September accords its support to the scheme in the following terms:—

Ranchi is a healthy place, and with the opening of the railway will be easily accessible to all parts of Bengal. A small town like this will be more favourable to the mental and physical health of the students than a large city like Calcutta. It was this consideration which led Sir Syed Ahmed to choose a place like Aligarh for his college rather than one of the many big cities of Upper India.

His Honour's proposals about moral and religious instruction are praiseworthy. Mere intellectual education, however high, is not enough to make a perfect man. The Moslem community have suffered in the past and are still suffering in the present for lack of religious education. A proper system of boarding-houses with qualified Superintendents will form the best corrective to this defect. And the system will suit the convenience of all religious communities alike. Boarders and boarding-houses should be divided into two classes according to the amount of fees chargeable for each.

It may be affirmed with confidence that Ranchi will be more favourable to the morals of the students than Calcutta with its theatres and other temptations. It is to be hoped that the few Moslem zamindars who exist in Bengal will come forward and subscribe the funds necessary for the building of a Moslem hostel and *masjid*.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

34. Referring to the proposal of establishing a high-class college at Ranchi, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September writes as follows:—

The proposed establishment of a high-class college at Ranchi.

We have no objection to the establishment of a high-class college at Ranchi. What we object to is the principle of admitting only the scions of high families to such a college. A few years ago a proposal made by Raja Sasisekharewar and others to establish a Raj Kumar College met with fierce opposition in Bengal. It is hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will not allow a similar ferment to be caused in the country. It is by no means prudent to create and foster a sense of separation and a spirit of jealousy between the zamindars and the middle classes of Bengal.

Again, the zamindars who were invited to the Conference on the subject were not informed beforehand on what points they would be asked to give

their opinion. They were not therefore fully prepared to discuss the question. Many people, for this reason, view the procedure adopted at the Conference with suspicion. Whether there is at all any necessity to establish a high-class college at Ranchi and whether it is worth while to spend 14 lakhs of rupees on such an institution are questions which require careful examination. A proposal to establish a high-class technical institution would be received with great enthusiasm by the people and serve to immortalise Sir Andrew Fraser's name in Bengal.

35. Referring to the proposed establishment of a model college at Ranchi the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th September writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

The proposed college at Ranchi.

We do not doubt the honesty and sincerity of the Lieutenant-Governor's intention in making the proposal, but the necessity and the purpose which the proposed institution is intended to supply and serve, require careful examination. His Honour's intention, of course, is to provide for the sons of Bengal zamindars a high-class college. But the question is: Why do these zamindars refuse to send their sons to the existing colleges? The answer is that they do not like that their sons should be brought up in the company of sons of middle-class men. This is what led to the proposal to establish a Raj Kumar College. But that proposal fell through. The contemplated model college will be open to the sons of all well-to-do men, irrespective of rank or position. The primary object of the institution will thus be, to a great extent, compromised.

Again, why should the college be established at Ranchi and not elsewhere? The first ground suggested by the Lieutenant-Governor is that at Ranchi temptations are fewer in comparison with those in other towns. But who can say Ranchi will ever remain free from temptations, specially when it is going to receive the benefits of a railroad? Then, again, at Calcutta and in other places the temptations which they present to young men are to a great extent counteracted by the presence, care and vigilance of their friends and relations. At Ranchi, on the contrary, this salutary influence will be entirely wanting. Missionary influence is great at Ranchi. It is therefore a matter for serious consideration whether under these circumstances young students will be able to keep themselves within proper bounds. It will not be difficult for them, if they desire, to throw dust in the eyes of their superiors there.

Another argument in favour of the proposal to establish the college at Ranchi is that Ranchi is a very healthy place. But will Ranchi always remain healthy? When it will receive the railway connection people from all parts of the country will flock to it, as they have done to Deoghar and Giridih, and make it unhealthy. His Honour has also said that the open fields on all sides of Ranchi will give great facility to students for healthy exercises. But will not home-sickness prey upon the health of the students when they will compare their merry homes with these open and lifeless fields? Besides this, these fields will ere long be turned into populous quarters. Again, air, water soil and company have great influence on men's nature, colour and constitution. Ranchi is mainly populated by aboriginal tribes. Who can therefore say that the constitution, colour and nature of those students who will live at Ranchi will not be affected by the surroundings of that place? In short, no necessity for the establishment of a model college at Ranchi at a large expense has been made out.

36. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 25th September does not approve of the Lieutenant-Governor's scheme of a college at Ranchi. Government should not open a college or school which by a distinction in the matter of education between the zamindars and the common people may give rise to estrangement of feeling between them. Some time ago a similar effort by the zamindars to open a college for their sons had to be given up on account of a strong opposition to the proposal. Sir Andrew Fraser, it is hoped, will not by making such a proposal sow the seed of opposition and controversy. If the money proposed to be spent on the college were utilised in promoting industrial and agricultural education more good might result.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

NAVA YUG,
Sept. 27th, 1904.

37. Referring to the proposal to establish a model college at Ranchi, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 27th September observes:—

The proposed Ranchi College.

No great difficulty would be felt in collecting the required amount of seven lakhs from public subscriptions before the college is started, for the number of people infected with the title-hunting mania is still large in the country. In the beginning the difficulty about the want of students would to some extent be removed by this same class of men. For unless they send their own sons to the Lieutenant-Governor's own pet institution, they run the risk of displeasing His Honour and thereby seriously jeopardising their chances of obtaining a title. He among them who has no son of his own will probably offer scholarships to enable others to send their sons, and thereby contribute his share to the maintenance of the college.

This may do for a start, but it is doubtful if it will guarantee the ultimate success of the college. The class of professors whom His Honour proposes to import from Europe will be an expensive one. The number of students at the proposed college can never be a large one, for Ranchi itself is a town with only a small population, and it is quite impracticable that people should come to it from other parts simply for purposes of study. There are very few students in Bengal who will be able to afford the expense of college and boarding fees at the proposed institution. Only the sons of zamindars, talukdars, Sub-Judges and Deputy Magistrates, to whom study will not be a serious occupation at all, will take advantage of the new college. To imagine that the fees of these students will be enough to support the college is to display ignorance of the facts of the situation.

As to the need of this new college, His Honour has declared that it is to impart education on the principles accepted by the new Universities Act. This cannot be accepted without objection. For if there were anything special about the new Universities Act, the existing Government colleges might have been reconstituted accordingly. There can be no need of incurring all the extra expense of founding a new college altogether. Moreover, it is not desirable that the plea of improving high education should be used simply to provide for some highly-paid European professors at the expense of the starving Bengali peasant. This may appear a harsh statement, but our justification for making it is that high education among Bengalis counts for little nowadays in the estimation of Government. When the claims of a Eurasian possessing only a smattering of education are preferred to those of a highly-educated M. A., what need is there for high education for Bengalis? The Railway, the Telegraph and the Postal Departments employ the largest number of Government servants. Formerly educated natives used to get these appointments. Now they are gradually becoming a close preserve for Eurasians. In effect, therefore, natives would not think there was much cause for regret if Government restrained something of its present zeal for imparting high education to them.

Mr. Pedler's new scheme has laid the axe at the root of the system of primary instruction. The Middle Vernacular Scholarship Examination and the Upper and Lower Primary Examinations have ceased to exist in all but in name. Under the influence of Mr. Pedler's new rules, the Bengali language is going to be absolutely ruined. Two or three years hence, when we hear our Bengali boys speak Pedlerian Bengali, we might imagine that the whole country had been converted into a big "municipal market." It is a consideration of all these points which makes one think that the country would be better off without His Honour's pet college.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

38. Referring to the teaching imparted in the Government technical school in Bengal, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September makes the following observations in the course of its notice of the last Government report on education.

The Government technical school in Bengal.

Carpentry and smithery are the two subjects taught, and the teaching is imparted in classes as in the ordinary schools. Moreover, the training supplied is not usually above that of an average artisan available in the market. Better results might be obtained if well-trained artisans were employed as teachers and the apprentice system adopted in preference to the existing

class system. Native carpenters do not come up to the standard of work attained by Chinese carpenters. So Chinese carpenters might be engaged as teachers in this school to teach some native pupils their trade under the apprenticeship system.

The chief defect of such schools is that suitably qualified teachers are not available for them. And the work of inspecting them also requires a specially trained staff. At present the Inspectors of Schools are charged with this duty, but as they possess no special training, they cannot detect defects where such exist.

39. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

The selection of vernacular text-books.

Whoever takes any interest in matters concerning vernacular education in Bengal cannot but be astonished and disappointed at the list of vernacular text-books which appeared in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, and ask himself, "Who is the author of this list? Mr. Pedler may be its ostensible author, but possessing as he does very little acquaintance with the Bengali language, he cannot be said to have had much to do with the matter. The same thing may be said about Mr. Russell, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction. The next officer to whom the authorship of the list might be imputed is Babu Kunja Behari Basu, the Personal Assistant to the Director. His education, ability and experience pre-eminently fit him for the work. As a matter of fact, in all selections which have, for some years past, been made by the Education Department, his hand has been clearly visible. It is now rumoured that he has resolved to remain aloof from the work of making such selections in the future. For this reason he has transferred the work to a Committee. This Committee is secret, and, like all secret Committees, cannot be expected to be really beneficial. What is the necessity of making a Committee, appointed for the purpose of selecting text-books, secret? Is it to shield the members from annoyances, recommendations, etc.? Those who desire to influence the members of the Committee know very well how to find them out. If the members of the Committee are incorruptible by external influences, it is altogether unnecessary to keep their names secret.

This year only three literature books have found a place in the list of Text-books. It is three years since the new system of selecting text-books came into force. Kali Prasanna Bidyaratna's book has been selected every year, and Nilmani Nyayalankar's and Ishan Babu's books in two of these three years. What is the cause of this? There is no lack of books approved by the Text-book Committee. The Text-book Committee makes no distinction of merit among the books approved by it. Why should then the books written by the above three gentlemen be specially favoured by the authorities? There are other books written by Bengali writers of established fame. Why should these books be held at a discount? What is the charm which has led the authorities to follow this path of partiality? The Lieutenant-Governor is solicited to call for an explanation of this from the educational authorities.

40. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 23rd September says that Government has been actuated by a good motive in framing the new rules for the award of vernacular scholarships.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

The vernacular scholarship rules.

Calmly considered, the old method of holding the vernacular examinations would not appear free from fault. One drawback of the system was that in their hurry to go, as soon as possible, through the subjects and text-books appointed for the examinations, teachers paid little heed to the thoroughness of the instruction they imparted. In the case, at least, of boys of average merit a system like this produced results far from satisfactory, and encouraged cram at the sacrifice of true education. Government has been watching the results for a long time, and has at last, after mature consideration, reformed the old system and inaugurated the new. The replacement of an old, long-established system by a new one may at first cause some inconvenience; but in view of the fact that the latter is intended to grapple with the evil of cram, people should not be upset by little inconveniences but try to find means to remove them, as they are sure easily to do. How far the new system will

succeed in its object is, however, a question which can be answered only after it has been given a fair trial.

The new rules will not harm poor, intelligent boys in any way. The teacher also should find no difficulty in teaching two sets of boys, one for the scholarship examinations and the other consisting of boys who are not to appear at them. His class teaching may be of a nature to suit all boys, but he should give special lessons at home or at school after or before school hours to boys intended for scholarship examinations.

It is also urged against the system that by depriving the stimulus to work, in case there be no boys in a class or school eligible for the scholarship examinations, it will lower the standard of teaching. But this can be easily checked by constant class examinations held by head-masters and inspecting officers and by the results of the annual class examinations.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1904.

41. With reference to the opinion of Lord George Hamilton that the Indians should not be given high English education, as they have not yet learnt self-reliance and only seek for Government employment no sooner they finish their education, and, failing to secure it, they generally take to abusing the Government in season and out of season, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September says:—

His Lordship's wishes would have been fulfilled if the Government could see its way to carry on the administration of the country without the help of the educated Indians.

The Government which forbade the use of arms by the Indians could easily forbid their receiving education in English.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

MALDAH SAMACHAR
Sept. 21st, 1904.

42. The *Maldaha Samachar* [Malda] of the 21st September calls attention to the miserable condition of the municipal pound at English Bazar, district Malda. The ground is so full of mud that it is difficult for the animals to stand on it. The animals are not sufficiently fed, and there is no good arrangement for the supply of drinking water. There is a shed inside the compound, but it is not roomy enough to hold all the cattle. The pound-keeper does not always give a receipt when an owner obtains the release of his animal.

MIHIR-O SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

43. Referring to the recent withdrawal of the orders suspending the Santipur Municipality and the reconstitution of that body on a new basis, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September writes:—

Formerly the Municipality was composed of twenty-four Commissioners; henceforth it is to consist of nine only. Government justifies this reduction on the ground that Santipur is a small place, and nine Commissioners would be enough to manage its affairs. We, however, cannot agree with Government in this matter. Santipur is a distinguished town with a respectable area and population and trade. Other Municipalities inferior to it in every respect have a large body of Commissioners. The real fact is that Local Self-Government is abolished from Santipur.

The appointment of three Musalmans among the nine new Commissioners is only in accordance with the fitness of things, considering that the local Musalman population bears to the Hindu population the ratio of one to three.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

44. With reference to the decision of Mr. Bonnaud, second Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, acquitting one Atul Chandra Ghosh, a clerk in the service of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, who was prosecuted by Mr. Viner, a Sergeant, upon a charge of obstructing a public way in Mangoe Lane by allowing some bales of cloth to remain lying on it, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September hopes that this decision will give a lesson both to the local police and the Municipality. The merchants should be allowed a sufficient time to remove their goods and not be unreasonably prosecuted, although proper regard should be had to the convenience of the passers-by.

45. Referring to the Maniknagar Ghat affair at Bhadreswar, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th September says that there are many sacred *aswattha* trees on the Maniknagar Ghat road. The destruction of these trees would be a highly irreligious act according to the Hindu *Shastras*. The Lieutenant-Governor is prayed to spare the Hindu inhabitants of the place the pain of seeing these trees destroyed by mill-owners.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

46. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th September writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 20th, 1904.

The question of the ownership of *chur* lands.

The action of the Jabuna, which flows in the west of this district, is responsible for the formation of *chur* lands in its bed. These *chur* lands form a great bone of contention among rival zamindars. When, owing to the action of the river, the land of a talukdar disappears and subsequently again rises as a *chur*, it is not always easy for him to rescue it from the grasp of the zamindar. Government is the protector of the weak, and should therefore in such cases lend its help to the talukdar to enable him to regain his own. When a new *chur* is formed, it should from the beginning be attached by Government, or be made over to the proprietor of the particular mahal in which it is situated, after Government has satisfied itself by a reference to the survey map that it really forms part of that mahal. If this were done, the property of many poor people would be saved to them. We commend this suggestion for the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

47. Referring to the action of the Collector of Noakhali, who purchased for the Government a zamindari at a revenue sale for a nominal price, and the remarks of the High Court which quashed the sale, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] the 25th September remarks as follows:—

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

High-handed proceedings of a Collector.

We cannot say that the Collector had his hints or orders from the Lieutenant-Governor or the Government of India in this matter, but it is of course strange that Government should be sitting with its eyes shut while this injustice was perpetrated. The Government, not being satisfied with cutting at the root of the Permanent Settlement by means of cesses and other impositions on the zamindars, is now openly committing oppression.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

48. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi* [Berhampur] of the 16th September calls attention to the inconvenience caused by the want of a waiting-room at Takipur station, on the Azimganj branch of the East Indian Railway. The absence of a covered shed in which goods may be deposited temporarily is also much felt by the local traders. For fear of their consignments being damaged they are compelled to book their goods at Nalhati, a station five miles distant.

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
Sept. 16th, 1904.

49. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September publishes the following letter from a correspondent regarding the Machpara railway accident:—

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

The Machpara railway collision.

I was a passenger by the mail train for Goalundo on the night of Saturday, the 3rd September last. I occupied one of the cabs behind the carriage reserved for females, and slept on one of the upper berths. The night was almost over and our train was between Khoksa and Machpara stations when it suddenly collided with a goods train. I was asleep at the time, and was thrown down from my berth over the bodies of some of the passengers occupying the lower seats and immediately came to my senses. I was severely hurt in my sides, but taking no notice of it I jumped out of the window of the car. I stood outside for some time dazed and listening to the heart-rending cries of the dying. Until daybreak I heard sounds as if things were being thrown into the water hurriedly. I could make nothing of them, nor had I sense enough at that time to try to make anything of them.

Some persons, however, alleged that the dead bodies were being thrown into the river, others that it was only the *débris*. (As a matter of fact, when it was

daybreak none of the boxes and other luggage in the damaged cars were to be found.) Things were going on in this way, when two European guards carrying lamps with them began to go about from car to car crying loudly, "Anybody killed in this carriage?" "Anybody killed in this carriage?" The lamp which one of the guards carried showed the body of a Hindustani lying jammed between two cars on the treasure van. Blood was oozing from the man's nose, eyes and lips. I drew the attention of the guard to this case, but but he went his way, not deeming it necessary to attend to me. A little later however, he returned, and with my assistance, extricated the poor fellow from his critical position. It was now necessary to tie a bandage. There were many pieces of cloth belonging to various passengers lying scattered about, but the guard scrupled to use any of them without the owners' permission. So he took up one piece and began a search for the owner of it. Considering that this would entail fatal delay, I offered my own *chadar* for the purpose. The bandage was now tied, and the man left there lying still senseless. Subsequently I came to know that he was an employé of Messrs. Sinclair, Murray & Co. Five other wounded bodies were taken out of this same van, two of whom were almost dead, while the three others were still in the possession of their senses. The female carriage was just in front of this van, and it was found to have been completely telescoped into the goods train. When I got into my train at Sealdah I found this female carriage quite full of occupants. I do not know for what reason the guard would allow none of us to carry our investigations into the carriage. He pushed the other European into it, who entered the car and quickly shut its windows, all the while hurriedly protesting, "Nobody in this carriage, nobody in this carriage." But as a matter of fact, I saw with my own eyes two or three corpses below this carriage, and the whole ground below was quite drenched with blood. God knows how many passengers have met their fate in this carriage. While one European was thus attending to the carriage, the other guard attempted to lead us away from the place by announcing that the train was ready at the station. This was, however, a hoax, and it was not till 9 A.M. that a goods train arrived from Goalundo carrying coolies, with cranes, chains, etc. The cars which carried the coolies were shunted on to the scene of the accident, while we were told to enter the goods vans which remained. Except only the wife of a respectable gentleman, I saw absolutely no other female enter this train. Two hours later I saw two wounded Hindustanis conveyed into the train, one of whom was an employé of Messrs. Sinclair, Murray & Co. mentioned above. These two sufferers were set down at Rajbari station; what became of the rest I could not ascertain.

At 2 P.M. we reached Goalundo. At 5 P.M. I saw the two wounded *darwans* of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, who said that they had three fellow-*darwans* who had been killed. From Babu Radhikanath Chowdhury, zamindar of Mairagram in Tangail, I ascertained that he also had two *darwans* killed, and had another *darwan* whose fate he could not ascertain.

When the coolies returned, I learned from them that holes had been dug by the road-side and the dead bodies buried in them, the depth of earth over the bodies ranging from a foot to the height of the knee from the ground. They also said that the female intermediate-class carriage, which by the force of the collision had almost got to the top of the treasure van, had been safely removed and that they were not allowed to see anything of it. Mr. Knight of Serajganj was a passenger by this train. I have heard the story of the accident from him. As I was asleep at the time, I know nothing of what happened before and just at the moment of the accident. As to what I saw after this terrible disaster, I have given a brief account above.

SANJIVAN 12

50. The same paper calls attention to certain inconveniences in connection with the arrangements for booking passengers and luggage at Beliaghata station on the southern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway:—

(1) *The arrangements for the issue of tickets to third-class passengers.*—In front of the window of the ticket-office there runs a railing, three or four cubits long, which leaves an intervening width of about two feet. Formerly a constable used to be stationed here, so as to see that all people got in at one side of the passage and came out at the other. This guard has been recently

withdrawn. The effect is that people in their hurry get in at both sides, and as the intervening space is so small in width, there is a terrible crush, often resulting in accidents.

(2) The booking-clerk opens his office some twenty or twenty-five minutes before the train starts. Even of this little interval he spends some portion in arranging his almirah before he begins the issue of tickets to the eager crowd at his window.

(3) A table should be placed just inside the little window of the booking-office, so that when people pay in their fares, the money may not fall to the ground. Cases constantly occur where, for want of such a table, the money slips on to the floor, and in waiting for a search for his money the passenger loses his train.

(4) When giving receipts for luggage weighed, the parcels-clerk shows undue favour to some persons, so that the man who has his luggage weighed first is made to wait for his receipt, while some more favoured individual, who has come in later, gets his receipt in no time.

51. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd September points out that up-country pilgrims on their way to Puri are using the railway which runs through Bankura in

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

Railway complaints. increasing numbers, as this furnishes the most direct route to their destination. But only one up train and a corresponding down train run on this line in the course of the whole twenty-four hours. Two other trains should be added to cope with the increasing traffic. At present it often happens that many passengers have to be left behind at the stations for want of accommodation.

The same paper also observes that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway have no system of return tickets for intermediate-class passengers. This probably explains the small number of passengers of that class on this railway. The East Indian Railway, on the other hand, issues intermediate-class return tickets, and this accounts for the large number of intermediate class passengers on that line.

52. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 27th September suggests certain changes in connection with the arrangements for reserving carriages for females on Indian railways.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 27th, 1904.

The first is that these carriages should be distinguished with sufficient clearness and prominence from the rest of the cars. The small label, often in English, which is all that is now used, is not enough for the purpose. Formerly the East Indian Railway used to have its third-class compartments which were reserved for Europeans painted white, while the rest of the car was coloured red. Some such plan might be adopted in the case of female carriages also. The second point is that the present plan is to reserve a whole carriage in each train for females. This carriage may be situated perhaps at one end of a long train, and considering the small halts allowed at the ordinary stations, it is extremely inconvenient to make time to find it out and get into it. A better plan would be to reserve single compartments for females at an interval of three or four cars each.

53. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 28th September calls attention to the need of providing proper waiting accommodation at Barharwa station on the

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 28th, 1904.

Railway complaints. Loop line of the East Indian Railway. It is true that there is a waiting-room on the up platform, but it is reserved for first- and second-class passengers, which practically means Europeans. And there is also a tinned shed, but that is reserved for the stacking of goods. In addition to waiting accommodation a latrine is also required.

54. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th September complains of the unpunctuality of the Goalundo-Kaliganj steamer service. The up steamer is timed to arrive at

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 20th, 1904.

A steamer complaint. Jagannathganj in the evening, but as a matter of fact it is often two o'clock in the morning before it arrives. These enforced long waits inflict great trouble and inconvenience on intending passengers.

55. Referring to the suggested construction of a grand chord line of railway from Bankura to Calcutta, the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd September suggests that for present needs a line from Vishnupur to

BANKURA DARPAN,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

The proposed Bankura-Calcutta grand chord line.

Hooghly would be enough, and should be preferred as being cheaper. The construction of a bridge at Cossipur, if subsequently thought desirable, can present no difficulties to the adoption of this suggestion, for such a bridge could still be reached *via* Howrah.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

56. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September says:—

Question of railway risk notes.

The thanks of the merchants of Calcutta are conveyed through *Capital* to the Marwari Association for their taking up the very important question of railway risk notes, and for submitting a memorial to the Viceroy, in which the memorialists have very nicely and clearly pointed out the defects of the existing Railway Regulations on the subject and have urged that the law should no longer remain in force. The railways should be held fully liable for the loss of goods, even of such as are covered by the risk notes, so that they may not be stolen by the railway servants. The Association recommends that the form of the present risk note should be amended and that there should be a time limit, of course in proportion to the distance, for the delivery of the goods at destination. It is hoped Government will pay proper attention to this matter.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

Reconstruction of a road and
bridge in the Hooghly district.

57. A correspondent of the *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 25th September points out that the villages of Nityanandapur, Gopalpur, Naricha, Malirber, Chandinacha, Baga, Basna, Itegarh, Valki, Sathbangali, etc., in the Hooghly district, are enclosed on three sides by the rivers Behula and Kunti. For the supply of their daily provisions, the inhabitants of these villages have to cross the rivers to go to the fairs and markets of Nowasara, Sija, Dumurdaha, Tribeni, etc. For convenience of communication a former Magistrate projected a kutchra road from Nowasara to Nityanandapur with a bridge over the Behula. The road was almost completed, and even two of the piers for the bridge over the Behula had been built, when all works were suspended, as it was found that one of the piers had given way, owing to the bad materials supplied by the contractor. Since then twenty years have elapsed, and both the road and the piers are now overgrown with jungle. Considering the importance of this road and bridge to the locality, it is to be hoped that the District Board will spend some portion of its funds on the necessary works of repair and reconstruction.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 20th, 1904.

58. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th September complains

A complaint against an Income-
tax Deputy Collector.

that Babu Suresh Chandra Ghatak, the Income-tax Deputy-Collector of Mymensingh, neglects to make any inquiries prior to assessment, and serves persons with notices of payment quite indiscriminately. People whose income is below the assessable limit, and people whose tax was doubled only last year have all been threatened with a new assessment.

KHULNA,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

Transfer of Government officers
in Khulna.

59. A correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 22nd September gives details about the cases of the Sub-Registrar of Kaliganj and the Overseer referred to in paragraph 66 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 17th September 1904:—

(1) The Sub-Registrar has acquired about a thousand bighas of land in these parts. He has also taken loans amounting to about Rs. 10,000 from the local zamindars and tradesmen as the return of services he had rendered to them on various occasions. Cases in connection with these loan transactions often crop up in the local Sub-Judge's Court. Ordinary applicants who come to him to get their documents registered are made to wait, while other applicants who have influence with him through friendship or kinship are attended to first. He observes no regular hours for keeping his office open.

(2) As regards the Overseer, he has built three houses with gardens at Satkhira and Kaliganj. He has also obtained large areas of paddy-fields from Mahendranath Shaha, one of the contractors subordinate to him. It is said that a case has been recently brought against him in the Court of the second Munsif of Satkhira regarding a registered kabuliyat. Interesting revelations may be expected when the papers of this case are filed.

60. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

The Superintendent of the Rangoon Government Press.

Some time ago 119 officers attached to the Rangoon Government Press submitted each a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma complaining of the oppressions of Mr. Sanderson, the Superintendent of the Press, on his subordinates. In the fourth paragraph of one of these memorials it is said:—

"That the primary cause of memorialist's sufferings is the fact that he has the misfortune of being a Madraasi, and as such he is held in general distrust under the present Press administration."

As a matter of fact, Mr. Sanderson always calls his Madraasi subordinates a gang of rebels, his Bengali subordinates thieves and receivers of bribes, and his *Feringi* subordinates "Catholic orphans, with a cheap, non-technique education." Once in a letter to the Government Finance Minister he called his subordinates "a gang of unscrupulous natives void of any moral sense." Such is the impudence of the man.

In introducing *Feringi* officers attached to the Press to the newly-appointed Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Sanderson said, "Do not trust these men. They are thieves, *budmashes* and untrustworthy men." The affair relating to Mr. Hydari has ended in a censure and a warning to Mr. Sanderson.

Formerly all the ordinary printing work in the Press used to be composed in two sections, and its correction work used to be done in four or five other sections. But Mr. Sanderson has been making every section do both the composition and the correction work. This change has made it necessary to increase the number of forme-carriers from four or five to a number which varies from 18 to 35. The numbers of impositors, type-suppliers, etc., have also been greatly increased. This is the way in which Mr. Sanderson has been wasting public money. In order to obviate to some extent the additional expense caused by the above arrangement, Mr. Sanderson has ordered that the Press compositors should do the work of carrying formes also, and that if any work is delayed through any fault in carrying formes, the section-holder should be punished without being heard in defence.

It is not possible for old and weak compositors to carry formes which weigh from 1½ maunds to 2 maunds. These poor men are consequently being obliged to take leave. The section-holders have often to help the compositors in carrying formes. How long will this sort of things continue? Nearly one hundred of these oppressed officers once went to the palace of the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma to lay their grievances at His Honour's feet. His Honour asked them not to strike, and promised them succour. But it is to be greatly regretted that nothing has as yet been done in the matter.

61. Referring to the case of Halimunnissa Bibi, in which the Collector of

HITAVADI.

Purchase of zamindaris by the Collector of Noakhali.

Noakhali has been censured by the High Court for having purchased, for the Government, her property at a nominal price in a revenue sale, the

same paper wonders that although such illegal purchases have become a practice with the Collector of Noakhali, Government has as yet done nothing to stop it. Had Halimunnissa Bibi not had the means to appeal to the High Court, her case also would have gone unnoticed. If to the various "cesses" with which zamindaris are nowadays encumbered is added a system of purchasing them at nominal prices, the desire of the authorities to nullify the benefits of the Permanent Settlement will be on the high-road to fulfilment. What the writer intends to say is not that the Collector of Noakhali was either instigated or ordered by the Government to purchase lands for the Government at nominal prices, but that Government ought to have long before this taken steps to stop the illegal practice.

62. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 25th September enquires if anybody

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

Rewards for learning the Tibetan language.

could tell that paper the secret of the Government order offering rewards to the military officers for acquiring the Tibetan language.

63. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st September writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA
Sept. 21st, 1904.

The proposed Provincial Agricultural Association.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor deserves well of the country for his proposal to establish an

Agricultural Association. The sooner such a proposal is carried out the better for the country. But we cannot approve of the principle upon which members of the Association are going to be appointed. A few Europeans from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or some of the Bihar planters, if they are appointed to take a leading part in the Association, may no doubt do some good. But we think the Bengal zamindars should be encouraged to become members of the Association and to feel a real interest in its work. Zamindars will no doubt become members of District Associations; but as long as Collectors do not regard the work of the Association as one of very great importance, and do not give their best attention to it, no success will be obtained. Great love of power is the one characteristic of our District Magistrates. Their only ambition seems to be to pose as the terrible, but to be regarded as the friend of the people is beneath their consideration. We have not the slightest doubt about the sincerity of His Honour's noble intentions. But as long as His Honour will not be able to effect a revolution in the present system of administration, there is absolutely no possibility of his intentions being carried out. Let Government give the Magistrates clearly to understand that to punish offenders is not the only duty which they are expected to perform, and that their principal duty consists in improving the physical, mental and material condition of the people placed under their charge. A wise Government should never import Englishmen into India on huge salaries merely for the purpose of punishing the natives.

We hope His Honour will devise methods to secure the hearty co-operation of the zamindars, as it would be impossible to improve the agricultural operations of the country merely with the help of a handful of Europeans. If the paternal Government throws its whole heart into the work, it is bound to be successful.

Dacca Gazette,
Sept. 26th, 1904.

64. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 26th September writes as follows in English:—

Corruption in public offices.

Corruption in public offices is one perennial source of complaint by all who may have any dealings with them. The Police Department is said to be rotten to the core. There is a perfect unanimity of opinion as regards this department—it is of all other departments notoriously corrupt. It was at one time expected that the department would be thoroughly purged of all corruption by the introduction of competitive examination, through which channel many educated natives of the country would enter its service. Though many so-called educated people have found employment in the police service of late, what has been the result? Need we say, it is greatly disappointing? Why? There was a time when the English-educated young men of the country serving in Government offices would think it dishonourable to accept any illegal gratification. But a change, a regrettable change, has come over their opinion—nowadays, money is all in all with them, matters not how it is got.

The vast majority of subordinate officers belonging to the Civil and Criminal Courts of the country are no better than their *confreres* in the Police Department. The Civil Court peon is as much, if not more, extorting as the police constable, and no business entrusted to him can be properly and expeditiously got through unless he is propitiated by the party in whose interest he is sent out.

It is an open secret that a Civil Court poen's monthly income ranges from twenty to thirty rupees. The higher officials know it, and considering it an unavoidable evil, they wink at it. From the poen to the muharri, almost all of them make it a point to supplement their monthly pay by illegal means.

In the Railway Department, too, the huge crime of corruption is most rampant. There from the office to the station staff, with rare exceptions, the taint of corruption is easily perceptible. Those that have dealings with the booking and the goods offices know how difficult it is to transact business quickly unless they are ready to pay something more than their dues. These are not vague charges unsubstantiated by facts. The truth of our statements may well be attested to.

This deterioration is mainly due to the moral fall of the superior European officers. Nowadays this or that big European official is publicly tried on a charge of corruption and in some cases with shameful result. This

shows which way the wind blows; but of hundred cases, only one or two cases are exposed. This moral laxity amongst the European heads of the departments has the tendency to withdraw the salutary check upon the greed of their subordinates. If anybody is required to have any transaction in any of the public offices, he is well convinced of this fact. He is hampered at every step by the officers concerned, sometimes on the plea of technicalities, which is never advanced if he is offered illegal gratification without caring for the consequences of law.

Now, how to remove this vice from the public offices and give the public every reasonable facility to transact business and to establish the reign of justice is a problem which ought to engage the attention of responsible heads of several Governments and Administrations as well as the leaders of the country. The increase of pay, as many persons think, as the probable remedy, will not, in our opinion, answer the purpose; for, unless the moral tone of the officers be improved, an underlying hankering after money will impel them to corruption. The certificate of good character which every Government employé is required to submit at the time of employment should be vouched for, and if the employé's character prove faulty on subsequent occasion, he should forfeit his claim to the office. A strict supervision on the character of the subordinates is necessary by the official superiors, who must themselves be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Special favour in the shape of bonus in addition to the pension should be granted to any employé at the time of retirement who will produce a certificate of good character during the whole tenure of his service as a mark of the recognition of his good behaviour. We believe that if these and other such means be adopted, much of the corruption will disappear from our public offices.

III.—LEGISLATION.

65. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd September calls atten-

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 23rd, 1904.

The copy-right law.

tion to the need for strengthening the existing copy-right law. It is pointed out that particular essays are often transferred bodily or with slight modification from the original work to a new work without permission. Sometimes, again, when a book is found to command an extensive sale, a new book is brought out with the same name and dealing with the same subject, only in an abbreviated form. Or some small change might be made in the name and the matter of the original work, and a new book brought out and sold at a smaller price. The effect is to oust the original and more costly work from the market altogether. This means of course great hardship to the many people whose only means of livelihood is the income from their or their forefathers' books.

Under the existing law a suit for the enforcement of copy-right may be brought only in the High Court. The expense this entails is quite beyond the means of ordinary authors or their descendants who, as a class, are poor. Government should therefore modify the law, so that these cases may be disposed of by the lower Courts also.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

66. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th September has the following weather report:—

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 26th, 1904.

Prospect of the crops.

In Purnea there has been no rain during the current month. The cultivators are crying "God, help!"

In Arrah there was slight rain on the 7th instant. Many men are down with fever.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

67. In the course of a long article headed "The National degeneration of the English and the present Cabinet," the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd September writes:—

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 22nd, 1904.

The national degeneration of the English and the present Cabinet.

The first signs of decay which are slowly making themselves visible in English national life are causing the gravest anxiety to the thoughtful members of their race. The British Parliament is

composed of the elected representatives of the English nation generally. It may therefore be looked on as the natural exponent of all the national strength, morality, ambition, and greatness. But in the course of the last few years, this Parliament has, in its actions, exhibited so many signs of national meanness and narrow-mindedness, that every thoughtful person has begun to gravely question the health of the national life itself. The population of the country is steadily increasing, its military and naval forces are being daily added to, while its trade, already large, is becoming larger. But despite these outward signs of prosperity, England is gradually descending from the proud position she has occupied for so long a period of history. At the present moment England stands discredited in the eyes of the world to a degree it has not reached for quite a long period of time. It was since the beginning of the Boer war that these signs of national decadence first began to be made clear to the world.

In its origin this was a war of self-aggrandisement on the part of the English against the Boers, a race all the interests of whose whole life were confined to the hand's-breadth of country they occupied. During the course of the struggle the enemy's country was harried and oppressed in a way which has cast a disgrace on the national reputation of the English.

On the recent occasions of passing the new Education Bill and the new Licensing Bill, the strongest opposition which these measures had evoked was completely ignored. And the unworthy devices which Mr. Balfour did not scruple to adopt on these occasions to silence legitimate debate in Parliament are almost unequalled in the history of that august institution.

The support of Lord Curzon's Tibetan policy, a policy the root of which is a selfish desire to extend the Empire; the sanctioning of emigration of Chinese labourers to South Africa under restrictions which amount to a condition of slavery; these and other acts, the only motive of which is blind selfishness, have discredited the present Ministry in the eyes of the public. The commercial policy inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain and supported by Mr. Balfour is opposed to all ideas of progress and liberalism. The ignoble part which the English (people who boast of their civilisation) have played in the matter of the treatment of Indians in South Africa inspires at once shame and disgust. At the commencement of the Boer war, Mr. Chamberlain, then Colonial Minister, loudly proclaimed before all the world that one of the principal causes of that war was the ill-treatment by the Boers of Indian subjects. But it now appears that all that talk was hypocritical and more, that the civilised Englishman is actually behaving worse than the half-civilised Boer. The rights which the Indian subjects in South Africa enjoyed under the foreign rule of the Boers have now been taken away from them by a Government of the same race as their rulers. What better instance can we have of blind self-interest?

The truth is, that it is long since England had a Ministry like the present one, with its long record of broken promises, oppression of the weak, sacrifice of national interests and prestige for the sake of particular sections of the community; of all which acts of wrong it has been and is guilty before God and the English nation.

So much for moral degradation. In pre-eminence of thought and research also their decline is visible. That the national physique is deteriorating is proved by the recent Government Commission which inquired into this question. As regards its position as a military power, the late Boer war showed its many weaknesses and shortcomings. In commerce America and Germany are daily gaining ground upon her. On all sides, therefore, signs of the national degeneration of the English are apparent. Unless the whole nation unites as one man to resist this downward tendency, or unless some great man rises and comes to the rescue, who shall say to what further depths this nation will descend?

ARYAVARTA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

68. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 24th September notices with satisfaction the scheme of Sir Andrew Fraser to establish a residential College at Ranchi, and asks the public to erect a Public Hall there, which it considers a crying want of that town.

69. The same paper mourns the fate of its countrymen and draws their attention to their abject condition, which it considers is at present no better than that of a slave. Disgrace and dishonour are staring them in the face, turn in whichever direction

ARYAVARTA.

"Indians! Be up."

they may. Under the pretence of supplying them with comforts, their trouble is increased every day. Still they do not give up their lethargy. They receive education and enter service, by which they lose even their independence. It then exhorts them to try for their country's good, cast aside all differences of religion, with one voice cultivate the feeling of patriotism, and then strive for independence. They must make use of only country-made goods, by which their wealth will remain in the country for the benefit of their children, and foreigners will not be able to purchase and use beef with their money. They should set Japan before them for example.

70. Referring to the judgment in the case of one Harington, a soldier of the British Army, for theft, delivered by the Chief Presidency Magistrate on Monday last, under which

A soldier punished.

he was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 30, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th September remarks that Europeans do not receive even so much punishment for the murder of a native as they do in the case of a theft from an English shop.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 24th, 1904.

71. Upon the murder of Captain Bowring, Political Agent of Wana, by one Abdul Rahman, a Khel Mahsud sepoy, at Sarwekai on the 20th September, while he was

Captain Bowring's murder.

asleep, the same paper remarks that Lord Curzon's policy was to administer the new province by means of local levies and thus to match a stone with a stone. But the frontier men are not the people to remain long without coming to mischief.

BHARAT MITRA.

72. Referring to the remarks of the *Times of India* of Bombay regarding the alleged seditious articles in the Marathi journal *Kal*, the same paper comments that it is well that the present times are not so favourable to the *Times of India* for misleading the Government officials, and entertains a hope that the officials will take no hurried steps in the matter.

Alleged sedition in a Marathi newspaper of Bombay.

BHARAT MITRA.

73. The same paper has the following:—

The anniversary of Sivaji in Calcutta.

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall of Calcutta on the 16th September to celebrate the anniversary of Sivaji. Amongst other speakers, Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad, in refuting the remarks of some Europeans calling Sivaji a plunderer, said that the booty usually obtained on conquering a country is not literally a plunder. In snatching away a country from others, no conqueror has ever had recourse to gentleness and honesty. In Europe, when conquering alien countries, recourse has always been had to treachery and deception. They ought to fully bear this in mind when finding fault with others.

Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee said this festival is held with a view to promote unity and self-respect among us, and remarked that "if we succeed in making an advance on these lines, the political chains unjustly tightening round us would soon be broken, and our Government would look upon us with more respect and regard."

BHARAT MITRA.

74. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 25th September gives a long account of the Sivaji Festival celebrated in the Town Hall the other day, including a version of the speeches delivered on the occasion. In one of the speeches the following occurs:—

The Sivaji Festival in Calcutta

We are loyal and trusted subjects of His Majesty King Edward VII, Emperor of India. We shall go on agitating till we obtain all the rights and privileges of His Majesty's other subjects. Truth will triumph at last.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 25th, 1904.

75. The same paper learns that the Indian Congress at their next session will ask for independence and power of Local Self-Government on the lines granted to the in-

The Congress demand.

habitants of the Philippine Islands, and says if the Congress prays for such privileges, pointing out the precedent, there would be nothing unjustifiable in it, rather there would be a distinct gain.

HITAVARTA.

76. In noticing the proceedings of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, which voted an address of welcome to Lord Curzon on his arrival in India, the same paper remarks:—

Lord Curzon and the Bombay Municipality.

When Lord Curzon would lay his hand on his breast and try to find out if he really did nothing to deserve an address of welcome from the Indians

HITAVARTA.

he will certainly have to look down in shame. Even if he does not look down for fear of losing his honour, his heart will certainly be depressed. Whatever it be, we never expected that the Bombay Municipality, which always took the lead in all public movements for its country's good, would now lead the way to blame and censure.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Sept. 17th, 1904.
UTKALDIPIKA.

77. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th September says that there was heavy rain in the last week.

78. The same paper draws the attention of Mr. Blackwood, the District Magistrate, to the illegal action of the Abkari and Police Sub-Inspectors of Puri in searching the

An excise case at Puri. house of Babu Raghunath Khuntia, a respectable gentleman of Khuntiasahi in that town, with the object of seizing smuggled *ganja*, reported to have been concealed in his house. They found there no such *ganja* and returned very much disappointed. It is a questionable practice to trouble respectable gentlemen in this way and thereby enhance public discontent and the sense of public insecurity.

UTKALDIPIKA.

79. Referring to the proposal of establishing a first grade college at Ranchi, with separate boarding institutions for Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians and with separate provision for religious teaching, the same paper, while approving of the general outline of the scheme, doubts whether a sufficient number of students will be attracted to a place that is so remote from the enlightened districts of Bengal.

UTKALDIPIKA.

80. The same paper approves of the conduct of the students of the Ravenshaw College, who subscribed Rs. 70 towards the cost of an oil-painting of the late Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta of Khandpara. The painting was unveiled in the college premises with great ceremony on the 4th of the current month.

UTKALDIPIKA.

81. Referring to the light punishment inflicted on a constable of the Balasore Treasury guard by the District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, for falsely charging a respectable gentleman of the Balasore town with drunkenness and disorderly conduct, the same paper observes that such reprehensible conduct on the part of the constable should have been visited with condign punishment, and draws the attention of the Balasore District Magistrate to the case.

UTKALDIPIKA.

82. The same paper is of opinion that the members of the domiciled Bengali community, who are generally looked upon as Uriyas, are very much dissatisfied, because the Government did not appoint any one of them, however competent, to the Provincial Civil Service during the entire competition period. The writer entreats Government to do justice to the claims of these men, who form an important branch of the native community in Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA.

83. Referring to the imposition of a *pindika* fee of 8 annas per head on pilgrims visiting the Puri temple by its Manager, the same paper points out that the Manager has taken a bold step without publishing a statement of objects and reasons, and that the unauthorised pilgrim-tax so quietly imposed by him will create a commotion in the Hindu community that will spoil the fruits of his able management in a short time. The novel capitation rate, realised by force from the poor and the rich alike, will no doubt shock the religious feelings of the Hindus, who will not tolerate such uncalled-for interference with their religion in any way. It is insinuated by many that Babu Raj Kishore Das, the Manager of the Puri temple, being a Government servant, has introduced this novel tax with the object of pleasing the Government and of clearing the way for the imposition of a regular pilgrim-tax which has been in the contemplation of the authorities for a long time. The writer therefore requests the Manager to explain his conduct and thereby remove great public apprehension.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD,
Sept. 7th, 1904.

84. Referring to the remarks of the Sanitary Commissioner on the Balasore Municipality, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 7th September states that the

Municipality has improved very much under the supervision of Mr. Egerton, the present Chairman.

85. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 15th September states that there was heavy rain in the last week and that, as a consequence, the Burabalang and other rivers in the Balasore district were swollen. SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Sept. 15th, 1904.

Heavy showers in the Balasore district.

86. The same paper says that the state of the paddy crop in the Balasore district is hopeful. SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Crop prospects in Balasore.

87. According to the same paper, the health of the Balasore town is good. SAMVAD VAHIKA.

The health of Balasore town.

88. Referring to the proposed appointment of a whole-time Sub-Postmaster in Talcher, the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 17th September states that the appointment should be given to Babu Brajabandhu Sahu, who, as compounder of the Talcher Dispensary and as Sub-Postmaster of the Talcher Branch Post Office, has discharged his combined duties very satisfactorily. GARJATBASINI.
Sept. 17th, 1904.

The Sub-Postmastership of Talcher.

89. The same paper publishes a long account of the theft case in connection with the Athgurb Treasury drawn up by Pitambar Bachaspati of Athgurb, in which an attempt is made to show that the Dewan, Babu Damodar Patnaik, prevaricated by making two contradictory statements in connection with the case before the Raja and the Forester of Athgurb, and that both the Dewan and the Sub-Inspector of Police were to blame for gross neglect of duty. GARJATBASINI.

The Athgurb Treasury theft case.

ASSAM PAPERS.

90. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 21st September reports that counterfeit rupees, half-rupees, four-anna pieces and two-anna pieces are circulating in large numbers at Kanai Bazar and the adjacent places. The local police should look to this matter. PARIDARSAK,
Sept. 21st, 1904.

Circulation of counterfeit coins.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 24th September, 1904.

